

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

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R 112120Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5933
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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DEPT FOR PM

PANAMA FOR IAGS

DEPT PASS DMA/IAGS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, TGEN, BL

SUBJ: GOB REQUEST FOR MAPPING ASSISTANCE AND
EMBASSY-RECOMMENDED RESPONSE REGARDING IAGS

1. STATING THAT HE WAS ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS OF PRES BANZER, GOB MINISTER OF DEFENSE BRIG GEN BERNAL INVITED THE AMBASSADOR TO THE MINISTRY FOR A DISCUSSION OF GOB'S INTEREST IN MAPPING, IAGS, AND ITS DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE A NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR THE MAPPING PROGRAM TO REPLACE THE 1946 AGREEMENT. GEN. BERNAL AND THE COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY GEORGRAPHIC INSTITUTE (IGM) EMPHASIZED THAT THE MAPPING PROGRAM OPERATED BY IGM, WITH COOPERATION OF IAGS, BENEFITED MILITARY OPERATIONS AND ALSO NUMEROUS CIVILIAN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF BOLIVIA.

2. SINCE A SUDDEN WITHDRAWAL OF USG SUPPORT, WITHOUT TIME FOR THE GOB TO INCREASE ITS OWN BUDGET WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE AND SERIOUSLY HURT
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THE BOLIVIAN PROGRAM, THE GOB WISHED TO BE

ASSURED THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE WITHDRAWN BUT CONTINUED WITHOUT DIMINUTION AT LEAST UNTIL 1980. THE MAIN CONCERN WAS THE NEED TO KNOW OUR INTENTIONS EVEN IF WE WERE TO PROPOSE A PHASE-OUT.

3. IN ADDITION, GEN BERNAL MADE AN APPEAL FOR SPECIAL USG ASSISTANCE TO ACCELERATE THE PROGRAM OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. THE GOB WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO PHOTOGRAPHING AREAS WITH GREATEST ECONOMIC POTENTIAL SUCH AS THE BENI.

4. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE MINISTER THAT WE RECOGNIZED THE VALIDITY OF THE GOB REQUEST TO HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING IAGS CONTRIBUTIONS AS A BASIS FOR ITS OWN BUDGET PLANNING AND PROMISED TO EXAMINE ANY SUGGESTED GOB DRAFT AGREEMENT ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE USG IS UNLIKELY TO MAKE COMMITMENTS COVERING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS SINCE FUNDING WOULD BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS. THE BOLIVIANS DID NOT RAISE ANY OBJECTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION THAT PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED TECHNICIANS COULD BE REPLACED WITH TDY PERSONNEL WITHOUT REDUCING REQUIRED USG TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM.

5. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, EMBASSY PROPOSES FOLLOWING ACTION:

(A) THAT PM EXPLORE WITH DMA THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING THE MAXIMUM PAYMENT OF \$140,000 STATED IN SECTION III, A-2, OF THE AERIAL PHOTO WORKING ARRANGEMENT PROPOSAL DEVELOPED BY THE PLANS AND OPERATIONS DIVISION. THIS PROPOSAL WAS SENT TO IAGS PROJECT DIRECTOR HERE BY MEMO DATED JAN 27, 1975, A COPY OF WHICH HAS JUST BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY. THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS WOULD PERMIT THE GOB TO CONTRACT COMMERCIALY FOR PHOTOGRAPHY TO SUPPLEMENT THE GOB AIR FORCE PRODUCTION. THE JAN 27 UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMO SPEAKS OF STARTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOB ON MAR 10. WE ASSUME THAT PM WILL WISH TO REVIEW THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT.

(B) THAT WASHINGTON AUTHORIZE US TO USE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW BASIC IAGS BILATERAL AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP A FOUR-YEAR PHASE-DOWN IN IAGS RESIDENT-BASED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

PERSONNEL TO ONE LIAISON OFFICER. THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE NOT ONLY TO REDUCE USG RESIDENT PERSONNEL BUT TO CONTRIBUTE FURTHER TO BOLIVIA'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN THE MAPPING PROGRAM. THE IGM HAS DEMONSTRATED A HIGH DEGREE OF CAPABILITY, WHICH IS A TRIBUTE TO THE IAGS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OVER ALMOST 30 YEARS.

(C) THAT THE POSITIONS OF NCO SUPPLY SERGEANT AND THE LOCAL SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT BE ELIMINATED AT THE END OF FY-75.

(D) THAT ONE CIVILIAN TECHNICIAN'S POSITION BE REPLACED BY TDY CONSULTATIONS AT THE END OF FY-1975.

(E) THAT DMA CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT ENGINEER PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF PROJECT DIRECTOR UNDER THE REVISED ARRANGEMENT. MEANTIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON PROPOSED REPLACEMENT OF COL FURRER, THE PRESENT PROJECT DIRECTOR.

6. THE ABOVE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH COL FURRER WHO FEELS THAT, IN VIEW OF CURRENT DOD MISSION AND GUIDANCE FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS, HE CANNOT CONCUR IN THE EMBASSY'S PROPOSALS. THE PROJECT DIRECTOR OPPOSES THE PLAN AND ADVOCATES ACCEPTANCE OF THE DMA/IAGS GUIDANCE CALLING FOR ELIMINATION OF THE SUPPLY NCO POSITION AT THE END OF FY 75 AND STABILIZATION OF REMAINING PERSONNEL UNTIL 1980.

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7. EMBASSY NOTES THAT FOREGOING APPROACH, AS PER PARA 5, IS CONSISTENT WITH AND ELABORATES ON LAST YEAR'S APPROVED CASP.
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